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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 7 July 2004, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Aliyev (Vice-President) ..... (Azerbaijan)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Aliyev, Vice-President (Azerbaijan), took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

(a) Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*continued*) (E/2004/59, E/2004/NGO/19-22 and E/2004/CRP.1-4)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.14

1. **Mr. Siv** (United States) said that the United States strongly supported the integration of gender issues into the work of the United Nations. Considerable progress had been made since 1997. Further progress would require leadership throughout senior management, including at the highest levels.

2. The United States commended the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. Its expansion to include some sixty members was a positive indication. His delegation supported the Network's focus on building capacity, sharing best practices and developing oversight mechanisms. It welcomed the efforts by several agencies to strengthen their monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms on gender mainstreaming.

3. His delegation was encouraged that gender perspectives were increasingly part of the Organization's work on peace and security, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. It welcomed the recent efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to focus on the problem of trafficking in persons, which was closely related to the security of women in post-conflict countries. The United States supported the recommendations contained in the conference room paper. That included the importance of integrating gender analysis into needs assessment activities and of incorporating gender in reports by the Secretary-General.

4. Draft resolution E/2004/L.14 showed the commitment of Council members to gender mainstreaming. In reaffirming the validity of the 1997 agreed conclusions, the Council was sending a clear signal to all agencies in the United Nations system. His delegation hoped that when the Council returned to the issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, it would be able to speak of the full implementation of the agreed conclusions 1997/2.

5. **Mr. Zheglov** (Russian Federation) said that gender equality was necessary for sustainable social development. The recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" provided a benchmark in that regard. Policies for mainstreaming a gender perspective into the strategies and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system should be based on those recommendations and on the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2.

6. On the whole, the Report of the Secretary-General on the Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 (E/2004/59) was positive. Far from being an end in itself, gender mainstreaming should be carried out in the context of specific efforts, including achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. Although progress had been made towards systematically taking into account gender-related issues in sectoral spheres such as peace and security, humanitarian questions, reconstruction of countries and democratic governance, gaps remained in other areas.

7. One of the main problems that needed to be addressed was that of enhancing the effectiveness of the efforts of United Nations agencies to integrate a gender perspective with the limited resources available. In that regard, the Russian Federation agreed with the Secretary-General that inter-agency cooperation must be strengthened and rationalized through a more rational distribution of tasks so as to avoid overlapping. The United Nations technical commissions that dealt with women's issues, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Commission on Human Rights, had a special role to play in that regard; however, the specialized agencies, particularly the

World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme should also be actively involved in those efforts. The gap between policy and practice could not be bridged unless the United Nations system operated like a well-oiled machinery, enabling the individual agencies to make their contributions to the joint effort.

8. **The President**, introducing draft resolution E/2004/L.14, said gender mainstreaming in the agencies of the United Nations system had fallen short of expectations. Further measures were needed in order to ensure success.

9. **Ms. Bakker** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, noted with satisfaction that draft resolution E/2004/L.14 reaffirmed the validity of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2, which had proven to be extremely useful in integrating a gender perspective into the United Nations system. She was also pleased that it proposed a solution to the problems with implementation that were discussed in the report of the Secretary-General. It was to be hoped that adoption of the draft resolution would help speed up the implementation of the agreed conclusions. In particular, she wished to stress the importance of paragraph 15 of the draft resolution.

10. **Mr. Reyes** (Cuba) said that his delegation joined the consensus on draft resolution E/2004/L.14, with certain reservations. In the first place, the text attached too much importance to the work of the Security Council on women, peace and security, but did not adequately address the critical issue of women and armed conflict mentioned in the Beijing Platform for Action. Thus, it did not take into account questions such as the effect that the application of unilateral coercive measures against certain countries, including in the context of the so-called doctrine of "preventive war", had on the enjoyment of the fundamental rights of women, or the difficulties encountered in exercising human rights and respect for international humanitarian law, which affected women in conflict situations, particularly in conflicts carried out under cover of the fight against terrorism. In the second place, the draft resolution did not stress the importance of observing the principle of equitable geographic distribution in recruitment and, in particular, of recruiting women from developing countries, which were generally under-represented in the United Nations system. Finally, the draft resolution did not adequately address issues such as women's education and training, or women and the economy.

11. **The President** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that draft resolution E/2004/L.14 was adopted.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. **The President** announced that the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2004 was suspended until further notice.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.